CLAIMS

1. An adjustable candle holder comprising:
   a) a base having a lower surface,an upper surface, a lower spring-retaining cavity and a post cavity,
   b) a slider sleeve having a lower edge that interfaces with the upper surface on said base, an upper end, a post sleeve, and an upper spring-retaining cavity,
   c) a compression spring inserted between the lower spring-retaining cavity on said base and the upper spring-retaining cavity on said slider sleeve,
   d) a candle retaining assembly comprising:
      (1) an upper section having:
         (a) a lower edge,
         (b) an upper disk having a candle opening and dimensioned to interface with the upper edge on said slider sleeve,
      (2) an attachment post that extends downward from the lower edge of the upper section and that is dimensioned to pass through the post sleeve on said slider sleeve and to be inserted into and be attached by an attachment means to the post cavity on said base, and
      (3) means for allowing a candle to be inserted into the candle opening and subsequently gripping and centrally retaining the candle within said candle retaining assembly.

2. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 1, wherein said slider sleeve further comprises an inward-extending protrusion.

3. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 2, wherein the upper section of said candle retaining assembly further comprises:

a) a set of gripper slots that extend longitudinally from the lower edge to the upper disk, and

b) a recessed indentation located adjacent the lower edge and on each side of the gripper slots, wherein each indentation having a swivel pin bore therethrough.

4. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 3, wherein said means for attaching the attachment post to the post cavity on said base comprises:

a) the attachment post having a lower section that includes a set of external threads, and

b) the post cavity on said base having a corresponding set of internal threads.

5. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 3, wherein said means for attaching the attachment post to the post cavity on said base comprises the attachment post having a lower section that is dimensioned to fictionally fit into the post cavity on said base.

6. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 3, wherein said candle retaining assembly is further comprised of a candle concentric-gripping mechanism that provides the means for allowing the

candle to be inserted and centrally retained within said candle retaining assembly, said mechanism comprising:

a) a set of candle gripping slats dimensioned to traverse and be located at each of the gripper slots on said candle-retaining assembly, wherein each of the candle gripping slats having a lower section and an upper end, with the lower section having a set of rocker arm attachment bores,

b) a set of rocker arms each having:

(1) a lower section that includes a set of rocker arm bores in alignment with the rocker arm attachment bores on the candle gripping slats, and an outward-facing radial spring slot, wherein a bolt is inserted into each of the respective bores to attach the candle gripping slats to the rocker arms,

(2) a substantially-centered swivel pin bore that is in alignment with the swivel pin bore on the upper section of said candle retaining assembly,

(3) a swivel pin that, when inserted into each of the respective swivel pin bores on the rocker arms and said candle retaining assembly, allows the rocker arms with the attached candle gripping slats to be swivelly attached within the respective gripper slots,

(4) a radial spring dimensioned to be placed within the respective radial spring slots on each of the rocker

arms, wherein said radial spring maintains the candle gripping slats biased in an outward position, wherein when said base, said slider sleeve and said candle retaining assembly are assembled, the inward-extending protrusion on said slider sleeve maintains the rocker arms in an inward position, with the attached candle gripping slats also positioned in an inward configuration, wherein when said slider sleeve is grasped and pulled downward, the inward-extending protrusion moves downward, thus releasing and allowing the rocker arms to extend outward, which causes the candle gripping slats to be positioned in an outward configuration that creates an open area into which the candle can be inserted via the candle opening, wherein after the candle is inserted, the downward pressure on said slider sleeve is released, thereby causing the rocker arms and the candle gripping slats to return to their inward configuration, which applies an inward gripping force that securely holds and centers the candle within said adjustable candle holder.

7. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 1, wherein said means for attaching the lower section of said attachment post to the post cavity on said base is accomplished by dimensioning the lower section to frictionally fit into the post cavity.

8. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 1, wherein the lower edge of said candle retaining assembly further comprises on its lower inner surface an inward slope that aids in allowing the lower end of the candle to seat firmly.

9. An adjustable candle holder comprising:

a) a base having:
   (1) a lower surface,
   (2) an upper surface,
   (3) a lower spring-retaining cavity that extends downward from the upper surface,
   (4) a post cavity that extends upward from the lower surface and terminates below the plane of the upper surface,

b) a slider sleeve having:
   (1) a lower edge that interfaces with the upper surface on said base,
   (2) an upper edge,
   (3) an inward-extending protrusion that forms a first upward-facing ledge, a second upward-facing ledge having sides that form a post sleeve, and an upper spring-retaining cavity,

c) a compression spring having a lower end that fits into the lower spring-retaining cavity and over the post cavity on said base, and an upper end that fits into the

upper spring-retaining cavity on said slider sleeve,

d) a candle-retaining assembly having:

(1) an upper section having:

(a) a lower edge,

(b) an integral upper disk having a candle opening and a first downward-facing lip that interfaces with the upper edge on said slider sleeve, and a second downward-facing lip that interfaces with the first upward-facing ledge on said slider sleeve,

(c) a set of longitudinal gripper slots spaced around the upper section at $120^{o}$ intervals and located between the lower edge and the first downward-facing lip,

(d) a recessed indentation located adjacent the lower edge and on each side of the gripper slots, wherein each indentation having a swivel pin bore therethrough,

(2) an attachment post having:

(a) a lower section,

(b) an upper edge that integrally extends downward from the lower edge of said upper section, wherein said attachment post is dimensioned to slidably pass through the post sleeve on said slider sleeve and to be inserted into and attached by an attachment means to the post

cavity on said base, wherein when said attachment post is attached, the lower edge on said slider sleeve interfaces with the upper surface on said base, and the first downward-facing lip on said candle retaining assembly releasably interfaces with the upper edge on said slider sleeve,

e) a candle concentric-gripping mechanism comprising:

(1) a set of candle gripping slats dimensioned to traverse and be located at each of the gripper slots on said candle-retaining assembly, wherein each of the candle gripping slats having a lower section and an upper end, with the lower section having a set of rocker arm attachment bores,

(2) a set of rocker arms each having:

(a) a lower section that includes a set of rocker arm bores in alignment with the rocker arm attachment bores on the candle gripping slats, and an outward-facing radial spring slot, wherein a bolt is inserted into each of the respective bores to attach the candle gripping slats to the rocker arms,

(b) a substantially-centered swivel pin bore that is in alignment with the swivel pin bore on the

upper section of said candle retaining assembly,

(c) a swivel pin that, when inserted into each of the respective swivel pin bores on the rocker arms and said candle retaining assembly, allows the rocker arms with the attached candle gripping slats to be swivelly attached within the respective gripper slots,

(d) a radial spring dimensioned to be placed within the respective radial spring slots on each of the rocker arms, wherein said radial spring maintains the candle gripping slats biased in an outward position, wherein when said base, said slider sleeve and said candle retaining assembly are assembled, the inward-extending protrusion on said slider sleeve maintains the rocker arms in an inward position, with the attached candle gripping slats also positioned in an inward configuration, wherein when said slider sleeve is grasped and pulled downward, the inward-extending protrusion moves downward, thus releasing and allowing the rocker arms to extend outward, which causes the candle gripping slats to be positioned in an outward

configuration that creates an open area into which the candle can be inserted via the candle opening, wherein after the candle is inserted, the downward pressure on said slider sleeve is released, thereby causing the rocker arms and the candle gripping slats to return to their inward configuration, which applies an inward gripping force that securely holds and centers the candle within said adjustable candle holder.

10. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said base, said slider assembly and said candle retaining assembly are molded of metal.

11. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9 wherein said attachment post and said base further having a substantially centered upper and lower drainage bore that allows hot candle wax to drain therethrough.

12. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said base, said slider assembly and said candle retaining assembly are molded of plastic having a silver or gold plating.

13. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said means for attaching the lower section of said attachment post to the post cavity of said base comprises:

a) the lower section of said post further comprising a set of external threads, and
b) the post cavity having a corresponding set of internal threads.

14. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said means for attaching the lower section of said attachment post to the post cavity on said base is accomplished by dimensioning the lower section to frictionally fit into the post cavity.

15. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said slider sleeve further comprises a multiplicity of longitudinal serrations.

16. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein said slider sleeve further comprises a multiplicity of radial serrations.

17. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 9, wherein the lower edge of said candle retaining assembly further comprises on its lower inner surface an inward slope that aids in allowing the lower end of the candle to fit and seat firmly.

18. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 17, wherein the inward slope further comprises an upward extending spike that penetrates the lower surface of the candle to further aid in vertically retaining the candle inserted into said adjustable candle holder.

19. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 17, wherein the upper end of said candle gripping slats have radiused outward ends that facilitate the entry of the candle into the candle opening on the upper disk of said candle gripping assembly.

20. The adjustable candle holder as specified in claim 1, wherein said holder is designed to accept candles having a diameter ranging from 0.188 to 0.75 inches (0.478 to 1.91 cm).